

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Back when the First Amendment was written assuring Americans a free press, it was of course unforeseen how technologically advanced we would become in the area of media (e.g., international coverage in real time, instant television coverage, the Internet). Now here we are, with so much news we do not have the time to read all there is out there, to evaluate and assess, not to mention attempting to decipher which is exaggerated or outright fabricated news versus news that is true, correct, and verifiable. I believe that if the size of the truly humongous news mediums, especially those which are aligned, owned, or co-owned by large corporations, some of which have a huge stake in such areas as wars (GE/NBC comes to mind), is allowed to expand to even greater monopolistic proportions, it could not help but allow further corruption, censorship, and misinformation. Therefore, I call upon you to allow public hearings on the issue of permitting these giant media corporations to grow to even greater dimensions (and therefore more than likely greater distortion and doministic power). Think about why checks and balances were put into place and then think for just a moment about what would happen, should you yourself be placed in a position of disadvantage and disfavor with these powerful organizations. It could happen. Then, think upon this old (?) adage: "bigger is not necessarily better." Finally, do what you were hired to do, and protect and honor the citizens you serve, and as you do, recall that it is your job to adhere to our wishes – not those of a few self-serving faceless entities. Thank you for your time and (hopefully) respect.